

Lawyers angry over Federal Govt's Burrup rock art decision

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Lawyers for an Aboriginal clan in Western Australia's Pilbara region, in north-west Western Australia, have described as "atrocious" a Federal Government decision to reject a call for emergency protection of rock art on the Burrup Peninsula.

The Perth company, Kitto & Kitto, is representing the Wong-Goo-tt-oo people, who applied for what is called a 'section nine' under the Aboriginal Heritage Protection Act.

The Assistant Federal Minister for the Environment, John Cobb, rejected the application, saying he was not satisfied that the site, earmarked for the Pluto gas project, is a significant Aboriginal area.

But lawyer Grantham Kitto says he is applying under freedom of information to obtain all documents relating to the decision.

"We'll be inquiring from the department exactly what advice they gave to the Minister and whether the Minister has followed their advice," he said.